



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL DMC Subcommittee Meeting

Polk County River Place
2309 Euclid Avenue, Room 3A
Des Moines, Iowa

May 11, 2016

Present: Wayne Ford, Chair; Kim Cheeks; Stephanie Hernandez; Sandy Lint; Kevin McKeever; Sanjita Pradhan; John Spinks; Miguel Trevino; John Wauters

Others: Vivian Hayashi, Univ. of Iowa; Anna Hyatt

Staff: San Wong; Dave Kuker; Kathy Nesteby; Julie Rinker

- **Welcome/Introductions, Agenda – Additions/Amendments**

Wayne Ford welcomed those in attendance at 10:11 a.m. Introductions were made. There were no changes to the agenda. A quorum was not present until later in the meeting and the minutes were approved at that time.

- **Approval of February Meeting Summary**

John Wauters moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting, seconded by Stephanie Hernandez. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Gender/Race Related Data – Iowa Girls Justice Initiative**

Kathy Nesteby reviewed incident-based data related to criminal activity of females in the juvenile justice system from 2010 to 2014. She noted that there were small numbers of girls which can dramatically affect the percentages.

Nesteby discussed the top 5 charges for the various races and noted that for African-American girls, alcohol and drugs were not in the top 5. However, felony charges for African-American girls rose compared to decreases for both Caucasian and Hispanic girls. Serious misdemeanors and Theft 5th Degree were prevalent across all three racial groups. The information allows system officials to focus on the major issues.

Other data show increases in detention holds, length of stay, and average daily population across all three racial groups. Discussion surrounded the lack of options for aggressive girls.

Nestebly noted that the full report is posted on CJJP's website. The Iowa Girls Justice Initiative is working to develop an innovative plan for deep-end girls. The plan should be completed by the next legislative session. The goal is to prevent girls from entering the system, yet focus on those who need help, building "off ramps" to exit the system. When completed, the plan will be shared with members.

- **Updates**

- **Minority Youth Engagement**
- **June 2016 Community Planning Event**

Kuker reported that discussions are being held with minority youth to gain their perspective on law enforcement, the juvenile court system, and JCO's. Meetings have been held in Sioux City and Davenport while others are planned for Des Moines, Waterloo, Iowa City, and Cedar Rapids. He provided information on discussions in Davenport and Sioux City.

Summaries of these discussions will be shared with attendees at the June 15th Equal Justice for Juveniles event in Altoona and will also be included in the CASP update to the Chief Justice in August. Nine communities will bring teams to develop local plans to reduce DMC. Local data will be provided. The Chief Justice will provide the keynote address; James Bell from the Burns Institute will facilitate the event.

Handouts were provided in the meeting packet that provided further information on the conference. DMC members were invited to attend.

- **DMC Reduction Plan 2015/16**

- **Local DMC Collaboration and Plan Development Effort**
- **Discussions With State Leaders**
- **Ongoing Provision of Data**
- **State-Level DMC Summit**
- **Implementation of Electronic Version of DST**

Kuker noted that the above items are being conducted through current efforts.

- **Legislative Priorities**

- **Record Confidentiality**

Kuker reported that the Governor signed legislation making juvenile arrest information confidential. He noted work done by the Governor's Working Group on Criminal Justice Reform. This effort was supported by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council and juvenile court. Kuker noted the effects on juveniles seeking employment, education, military, and housing.

- **3rd Grade Retention**

A bill passed several years ago that requiring retention of children who are not reading at the 3rd grade level and goes into effect in May, 2017. However, funding was not provided for summer reading programs. Kuker reported on efforts by the JJAC supporting repeal of the retention portion. Discussion included that some pilot sites

within the Des Moines Public School System were being supported by United Way. Kuker will continue to follow the issue and provide updates.

- **Local DMC Updates**

Iowa City – Kuker reported that a community forum was held April 28 and was attended by Betsy Penisten, AmeriCorps staff. A youth panel expressed frustration with the school system and lack of cultural recognition and history.

Davenport – Trevino reported on a diversion program for youth on probation or charged with a misdemeanor. The first class was held two weeks ago and another one is scheduled. He thought the police were making strides to not charge youth for petty crimes.

Des Moines – John Spinks discussed an upcoming event entitled One Economy which focuses on Des Moines' racial wealth divide. The initiative is part of a larger regional effort led by the Northwest Area Foundation.

Burlington – Wauters reported that Burlington's first black mayor is in his second term and has brought issues to the forefront. Burlington has the second lowest graduation rate and there have been issues in the schools.

- **Future Meetings**
 - **8/17/16 DMC Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights